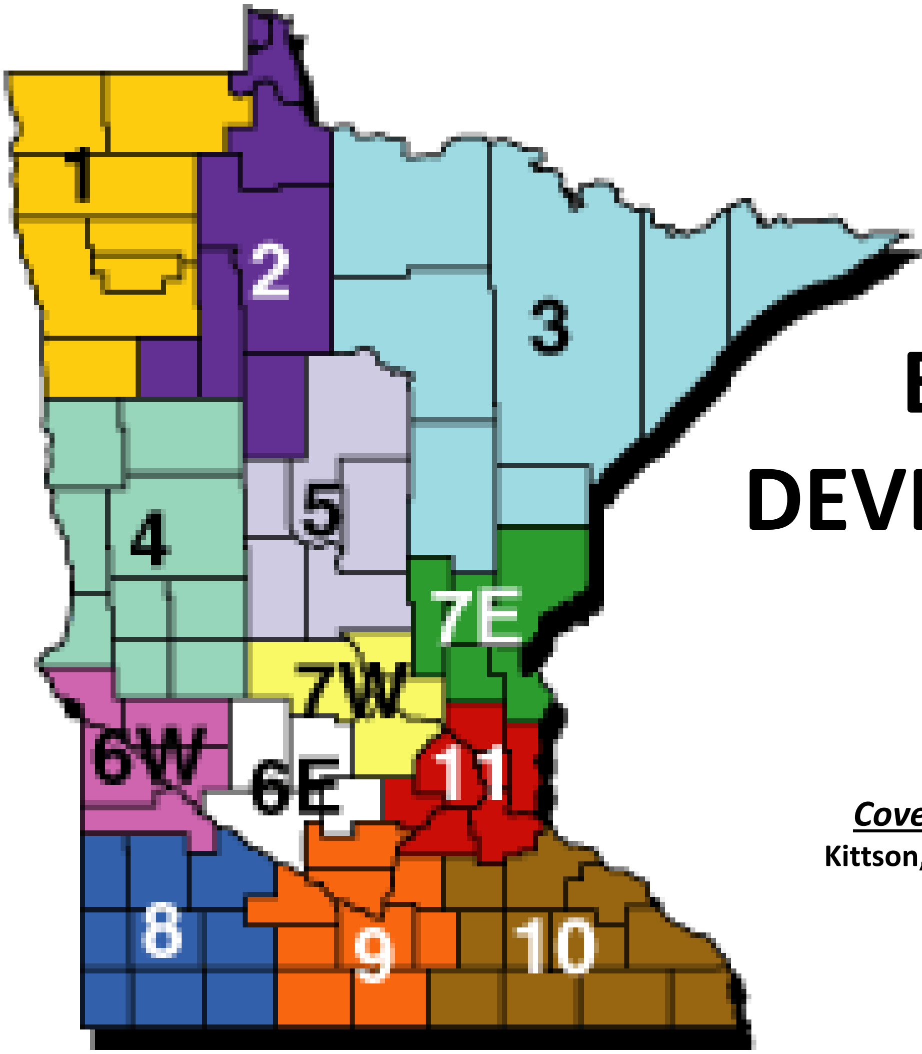


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGION 1: Northwest

Covering the following counties:

Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau

2021 REGIONAL PROFILE

Updated September 2021

Regional Analyst, Northwest Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Web: http://mn.gov/deed/data/

https://mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/northwest-lmi.jsp

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION CHANGE

Economic Development Region 1 - Northwest is a mostly rural, 7-county region located in the northwest corner of the state, bordering North Dakota and Canada. Region 1 was the second smallest of 13 economic development regions (EDRs) in the state, accounting for 1.5% of the state's population. The region decreased by over 2,281 residents from 2010 to 2020, a 2.6% decrease, compared to a 6.7% rise statewide. Region 1 is a part of the larger 26-county Northwest planning region, which saw a slow population increase from 2010 to 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1. Population Change 2010-2020

	2010 Population	2020 Estimates	2010-2020 Change Number	2010-2020 Change Percent
Region 1	**86,091**	**83,810**	***-2,281***	***-2.6%***
Kittson Co.	4,552	4,214	*-338*	*-7.4%*
Marshall Co.	9,439	9,321	*-118*	*-1.3%*
Norman Co.	6,852	6,338	*-514*	*-7.5%*
Pennington Co.	13,930	13,874	*-56*	*-0.4%*
Polk Co.	31,600	30,900	*-700*	*-2.2%*
Red Lake Co.	4,089	4,046	*-43*	*-1.1%*
Roseau Co.	15,629	15,117	*-512*	*-3.3%*
Northwest Minnesota	**553,805**	**571,239**	***+17,434***	***+3.1%***
State of Minnesota	**5,303,925**	**5,657,342**	***+353,417***	***+6.7%***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

None of the seven counties in EDR 1 added population so far this decade. Polk County, which is part of the Grand Forks, ND metropolitan statistical area, is the largest county in the region and 34th largest in the state overall, but saw a small decline of 700 people. Roseau County is the second largest county in the region, but experienced a decrease of 512 people. Like other parts of Greater Minnesota, the smallest counties in the region lost population since 2010, becoming even smaller. Kittson County is a prime example, which lost over 300 residents despite being home to only 4,552 people in 2010, and is now the 4th smallest county in the state and experienced the 7th fastest decline of 87 counties in terms of population change.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

Despite the population loss in EDR 1, the region still enjoyed a natural increase – more births than deaths – of 1,622 people from 2010 to 2019. Instead, the decline was the result of a net out-migration of 2,980 people, meaning more people moved out than moved in. This loss would have been even greater if not for the net increase of 729 immigrants to the region since 2010 (Table 2).

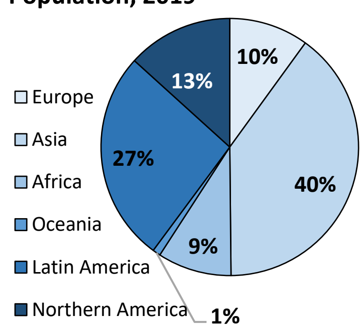
Table 2. Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2010-2019

			Vital Events		Net Migration		
	Total Change	*Natural Increase*	Births	Deaths	*Total*	*International*	*Domestic*
Region 1	*-1,372*	*+1,622*	9,832	8,210	*-2,980*	*+729*	*-3,709*
Minnesota	*+335,705*	*+250,488*	637,356	386,868	*+88,161*	*+114,414*	*-26,253*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

EDR 1 was now home to 2,614 foreign born residents, or 3.1% of the total population. The largest wave of immigrants in the region came from Asia, Latin America, and Canada (Figure 1). In sum, the number of immigrants in the region increased by 43.7% from 2010 to 2019, which was even faster than the statewide growth rate of 28.9%.

Figure 1. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2019

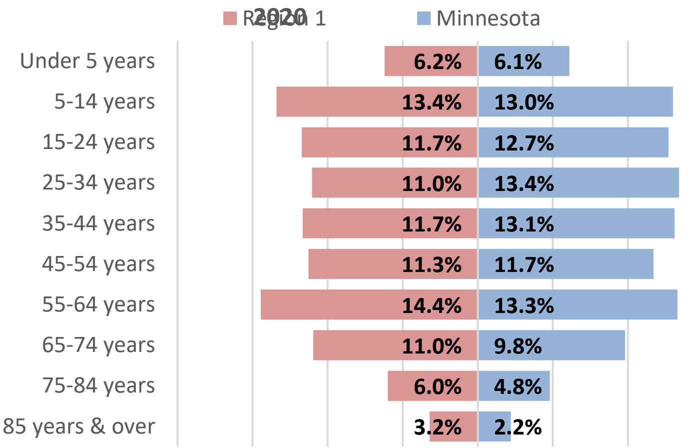


Based on year of entry, about 30% of EDR 1's immigrants entered the U.S. since 2010 and 16.7% entered between 2000 and 2009, compared to 27.6 and 30.9% statewide. The remaining 41.5% of immigrants in the region settled in the U.S. prior to 2000. Foreign-born residents have a younger age profile than the native born population, with 49.3% being between 25 and 54 years of age, compared to 35.7% of the total. While a similar percentage of foreign-born residents had a bachelor's degree or higher compared to native born residents, immigrants were also much more likely to have less than a high school diploma.

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

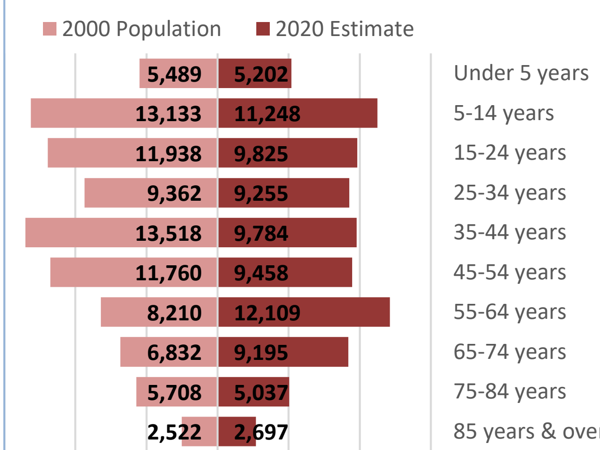
EDR 1 has an older population than the state – just over one-third (34.6%) of the region's population was 55 or older, compared to 30.1% statewide. In contrast, about one-third (31.4%) of the population was also under 25 years, compared to 31.8% in the state. That means EDR 1 had a smaller percentage of people in the 25 to 54 year age group - typically considered the "prime working years." A large portion of the area's population is a part of the Baby Boom generation, which is creating a significant shift in regional demographics over time. Between 2000 and 2020, over 5,750 more residents were 55 years or older (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Figure 2. Percentage of Population by Age Group, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Figure 3. Population Pyramid, 2000-2020



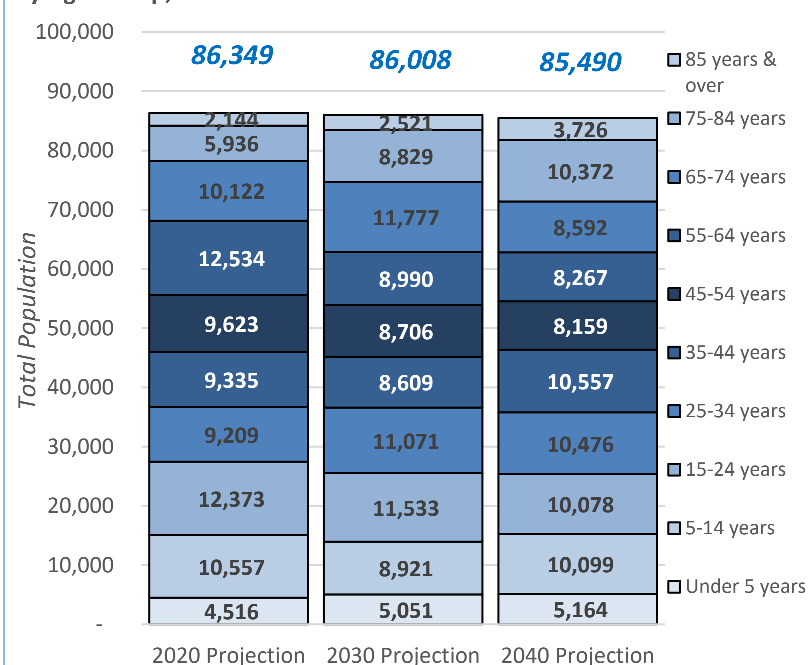
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP, 2020-2040

The total population of EDR 1-Northwest is projected to continue its decline in the future. Population projections from the [Minnesota State Demographic Center] show that the area is expected to lose over 850 residents from 2020 to 2040, a slight 1.0% decrease (Figure 4). In comparison, the projected growth statewide from 2020 to 2040 is approximately 8.8%.

Still, the projected population change varies by age. The region is expected to add about 2,500 residents between the ages of 25 and 44, and a corresponding increase in children under 5 years of age. Conversely, the major losses are expected to occur in the age groups from 45 to 74 years, as the Baby Boom generation ages out of those cohorts. However, this will also lead to an estimated 6,000 more residents aged 75 years and over, a 74.5% expansion.

Figure 4. Region 1 Population Projections by Age Group, 2020-2040



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

POPULATION BY RACE

The population in EDR 1 is less diverse than the state overall, but has had some significant changes since the turn of the century. In 2019, just over 93% of the region's residents reported white alone as their race, compared to 82.8% of residents statewide. However, the number of white residents declined by just over 6% from 2000 to 2019. Although the region had a smaller percentage of Black or African American residents, Asian or Other Pacific Islanders, Two or More Races, and those of Hispanic or Latino origin than the state, those populations have increased significantly since 2000 (Table 3).

Those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity had the largest minority population in EDR 1-Northwest, although their numbers grew at only half the statewide rate since 2000. Black or African American residents, on the other hand, increased by over 500% in EDR 1, far exceeding the statewide growth rate.

Table 3. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2019	EDR 1-Northwest			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	*Change from 2000-2019*	Percent	*Change from 2000-2019*
Total	85,283	100.0%	*-3.6%*	100.0%	*+13.1%*
White	79,563	93.3%	*-6.1%*	82.8%	*+4.7%*
Black or African American	1,167	1.4%	*+524.1%*	6.4%	*+107.6%*
American Indian & Alaska Native	1,332	1.6%	*+32.8%*	1.0%	*+5.5%*
Asian & Other Pacific Islander	1,014	1.2%	*+92.0%*	4.9%	*+87.8%*
Some Other Race	564	0.7%	*-51.5%*	1.9%	*+58.1%*
Two or More Races	1,643	1.9%	*+90.8%*	3.0%	*+99.9%*
Hispanic or Latino	3,736	4.4%	*+59.2%*	5.4%	*+108.9%*

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

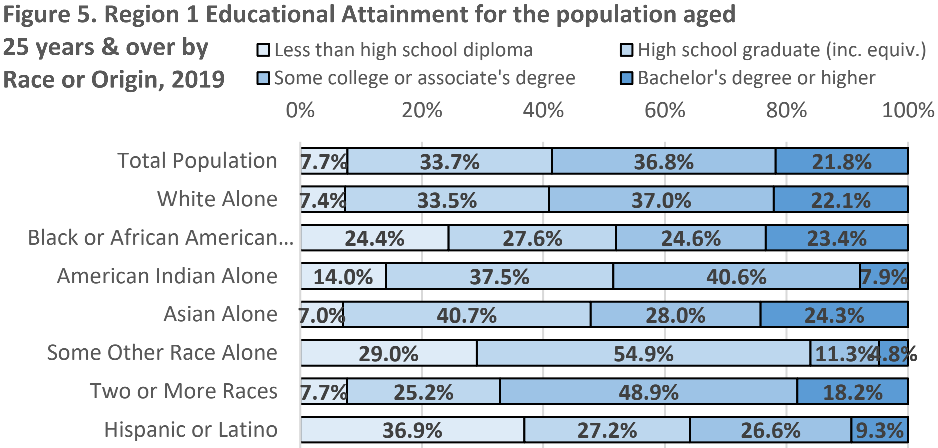
With 33.7% of adults aged 18 years and over holding a college degree, EDR 1 had lower educational attainment than the state in 2019, where 44.4% of adults have an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree. In contrast, EDR 1 had a higher percentage of people with some college but no degree, and a high school diploma or less. About 42.5% of adults in the region had a high school diploma or less, compared to only 32.5% statewide. Regional education attainment only exceeded the state in associate's degrees (Table 4).

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Adult Population, 2019	EDR 1-Northwest		Minnesota
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total, 18 years & over	**65,021**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Less than high school	5,448	8.4%	7.5%
High school grad. (incl. equiv.)	22,085	34.0%	25.0%
Some college, no degree	15,544	23.9%	23.1%
Associate's degree	8,651	13.3%	10.9%
Bachelor's degree	9,949	15.3%	22.5%
Advanced degree	3,344	5.1%	11.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Like the rest of the state, educational attainment varies significantly by race and ethnicity in EDR 1. Over 50% of American Indian, Hispanic or Latino, or people of some other race have a high school degree or less, compared to just over 40% of whites. Several minority groups, including American Indians, people of some other race, and people of Hispanic or Latino origin all had less than 10% of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to about 25% for Asian and Black or African American adults (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Region 1 Educational Attainment for the population aged 25 years & over by Race or Origin, 2019



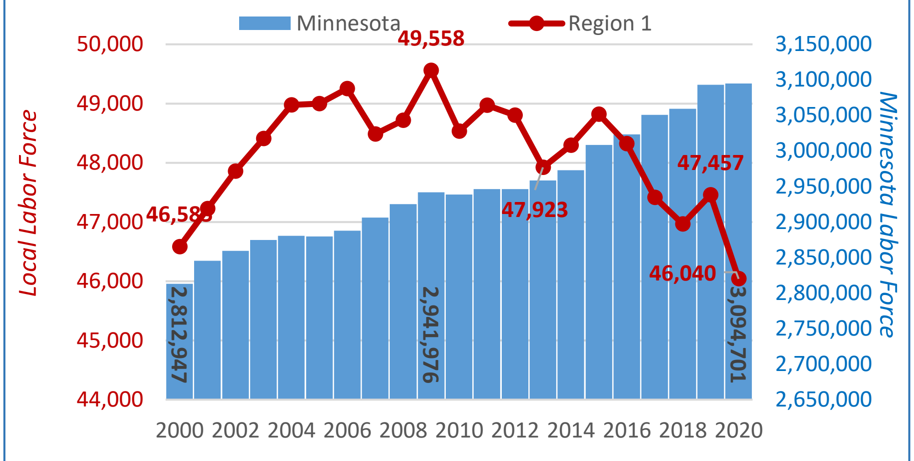
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE

LABOR FORCE CHANGE

According to data from DEED's [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, the annual average labor force in EDR 1 dropped to about 46,000 workers in 2020, the lowest number reported since 2000. With the region's population decrease since 2000, EDR 1 has seen a slight decrease in workers this century and the labor force has declined by 3,518 workers since it peaked at 49,558 workers in 2009, during the Great Recession (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates, 2000-2020

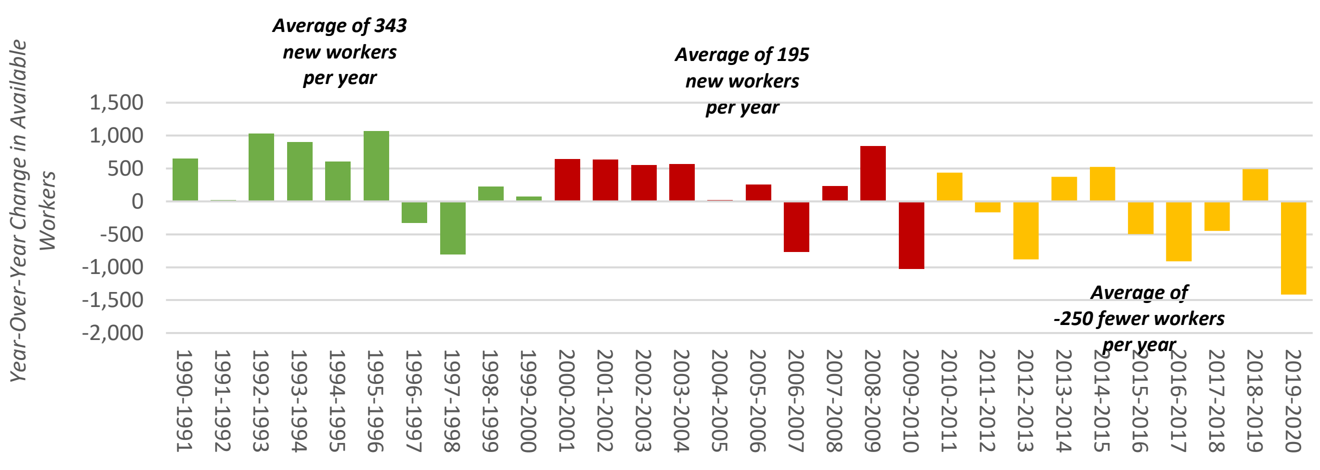


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program

Due to the pandemic, the labor force dropped by 1,417 workers or 3.0% but losses to the labor force were occurring pre-pandemic. Over the past 10 years, the size of the region's labor force fluctuated wildly, dropping to 47,923 in 2013, then re-bounding by almost 900 additional workers across 2014 and 2015. Then losses in 2016 through 2018 have made for an even tighter labor market in EDR 1, with fewer unemployed workers available and actively seeking work. This is likely to also have an effect on regional employment.

Averaging a net gain of 343 additional labor force participants per year between 1990 and 2000, employers in EDR 1 were able to tap into a large and growing pool of talented workers. Since then, the rate of regional labor force growth has slowed down considerably, demonstrated by EDR 1 losing an average of 250 workers per year from 2010 to 2020 (Figure 7). Increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers is now recognized as one of the most significant barriers to future economic growth in EDR 1. In the face of these constraints, it has become evident that a more diverse workforce in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, and immigration has been and will continue to be a vital source of the workers that employers need to succeed. As the white, native-born workforce continues to age, younger workers of different races or from different countries will comprise the fastest growing segment of the labor force.

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2020



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

Much like the projected population decrease in EDR 1-Northwest shown in Figure 4, the regional labor force is also expected to contract from 2020 to 2030. Applying current labor force participation rates to future population projections by age group creates labor force projections for the region, which show nearly a 5% drop in workforce numbers especially as the Baby Boom generation ages and drops out of the labor force (Table 5).

The projections estimate a small loss in the number of teenaged and entry-level workers and a huge drop in workers aged 45 to 64 years by 2030. However, that is against smaller gains among those 65 years and over, while the number of workers aged 25 to 44 years should also increase by over 1,000 workers. The anticipated labor market contraction may lead regional employers to adapt their management and hiring practices in order to compete for workers.

Table 5. Labor Force Projections, EDR 1-Northwest

	2020 Labor Force Projection	2030 Labor Force Projection	*2020-2030 Change*	
			Numeric	*Percent*
16 to 19 years	2,754	2,434	*-321*	*-11.6%*
20 to 24 years	5,311	5,193	*-118*	*-2.2%*
25 to 44 years	16,385	17,389	*+1,004*	*+6.1%*
45 to 54 years	8,567	7,751	*-816*	*-9.5%*
55 to 64 years	9,369	6,720	*-2,649*	*-28.3%*
65 to 74 years	3,028	3,523	*+495*	*+16.4%*
75 years & over	508	714	*+206*	*+40.5%*
Total Labor Force	**45,923**	**43,724**	***-2,199***	***-4.8%***

Source: calculated from Minnesota State Demographic Center population projections and 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

With 67% of the population over 16 years of age in the labor force, EDR 1-Northwest had a slightly lower labor force participation rate than the state. However, the region actually had higher labor force participation rates than the state in all but three age groups, but a higher percentage of older workers brought the overall rate down. Those aged 16 to 19 years had significantly higher labor force participation in EDR 1 than statewide (see Table 6).

By race, the diversity of the labor force in the region also lagged behind state averages. The region had lower participation rates than the state for every group, and higher unemployment rates for Black or African American, American Indian, Asian, and Some Other Race racial groups.

There were nearly 2,600 workers with disabilities in the regional labor force. In sum, unemployment rates were highest for workers of other races and workers with disabilities.

Table 6. EDR 1 - Northwest Employment Characteristics, 2019

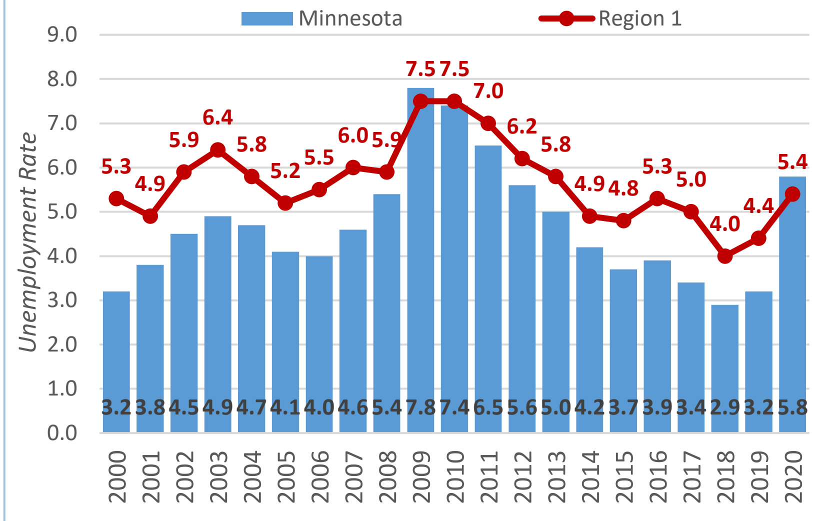
	EDR 1-Northwest			Minnesota	
Age Group	Labor Force	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate
Total Labor Force	45,164	67.1%	3.0%	69.7%	3.6%
16 to 19 years	2,419	57.3%	2.3%	53.2%	11.0%
20 to 24 years	3,995	83.4%	4.7%	84.6%	6.0%
25 to 44 years	16,907	88.4%	2.4%	88.8%	3.2%
45 to 54 years	9,506	89.0%	4.0%	87.6%	2.7%
55 to 64 years	9,322	74.8%	4.5%	73.0%	2.8%
65 to 74 years	2,525	29.9%	3.3%	27.9%	2.2%
75 years & over	474	6.3%	3.6%	6.6%	2.4%
Employment Characteristics by Gender					
Male	24,153	71.2%	3.4%	73.5%	4.1%
Female	20,993	62.9%	2.3%	65.9%	3.1%
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin					
White alone	42,716	67.1%	2.4%	69.3%	3.0%
Black or African American	499	65.6%	9.2%	71.3%	8.8%
American Indian & Alaska Native	523	55.0%	11.7%	58.9%	12.6%
Asian or Other Pacific Islanders	581	74.2%	21.4%	71.2%	4.3%
Some Other Race	317	81.5%	22.7%	77.7%	6.1%
Two or More Races	502	69.7%	6.9%	73.6%	7.4%
Hispanic or Latino	1,828	76.1%	5.1%	76.5%	6.1%
Employment Characteristics by Disability					
With Any Disability	2,588	54.1%	10.0%	53.0%	8.6%
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment					
Population 25 to 64 years	35,739	84.5%	2.5%	84.5%	3.0%
Less than H.S. Diploma	1,713	72.9%	3.5%	66.3%	4.2%
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	10,518	80.9%	1.6%	78.5%	2.6%
Some College or Assoc. Degree	14,776	86.2%	1.7%	85.3%	3.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8,731	89.2%	1.5%	90.0%	1.7%

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Due to the pandemic, the unemployment rate for the region jumped to 5.4% in 2020, though that was less than the state for 2020. Except for during the height of the Great Recession, EDR 1-Northwest has consistently reported higher unemployment rates than Minnesota overall since 2000. According to the [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) program, the unemployment rate in EDR 1 hovered over 1 percentage point above the state rate from 2000 to 2007, but narrowed the gap from 2008 to 2010 as the economy stalled. Since then, the regional rate had stayed within a point of the state average, even as the regional labor force shrank (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Unemployment Rates, 2000-2020

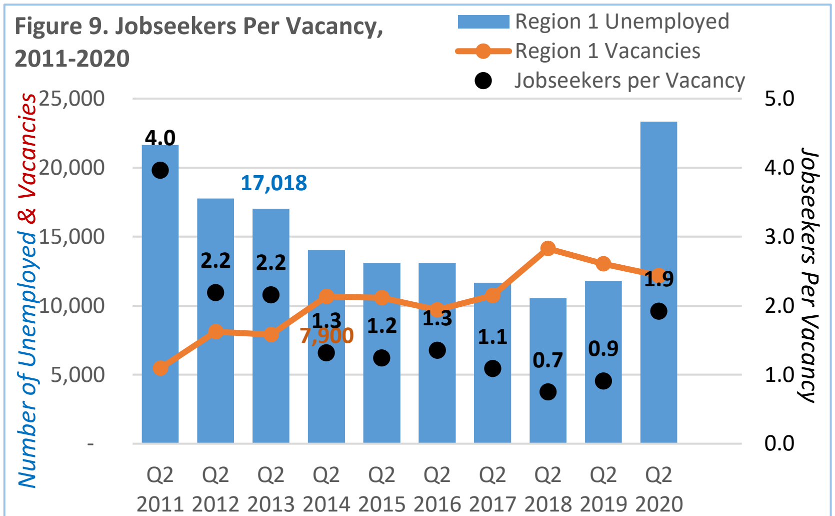


Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program

JOBSEEKERS PER VACANCY

As the economy continues to recover and the number of available workers declines, the regional labor market has been tightening. A clear demonstration of this is the ratio of unemployed jobseekers per vacancy, which now stands at 1.9-to-1 in EDR 1-Northwest. According to recent job vacancy survey results, there were 12,180 openings reported by employers compared to 23,340 unemployed jobseekers in the region. The ratio climbed as high as 7.7 jobseekers per vacancy during the recession in 2009 (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2011-2020



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

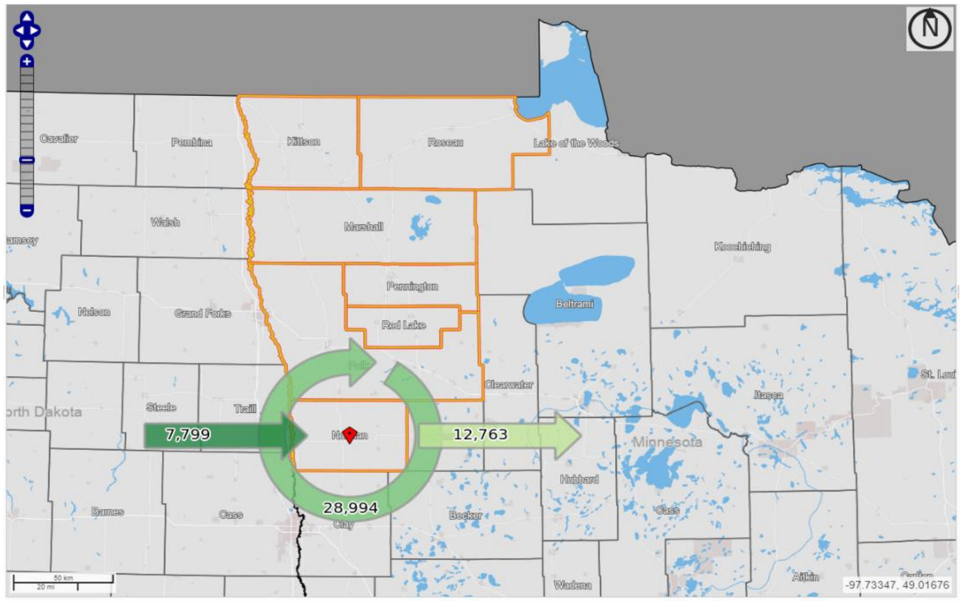
COMMUTE SHED AND LABOR SHED, 2017

The vast majority – about 80 %– of residents in EDR 1-Northwest also work within the region. However, EDR 1 is a net exporter of labor, having fewer jobs than available workers. In 2018, 28,994 workers both lived and worked in EDR 1, while another 7,799 workers drove into the region for work. This is compared to 12,763 workers who lived in the region but drove to outside areas for work (Table 7 and Figure 10). The average commute time for workers in EDR 1 was 20.6 minutes, compared to 23.7 minutes for workers statewide. Just under 65% of workers commuted less than 20 minutes each way, compared to 45.7% statewide. About 6% of workers worked at home, and 2.9% were able to walk to work.

Table 7. 2018 Inflow/ Outflow Job Counts (All Jobs), EDR 1-Northwest	2018	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	36,793	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	7,799	21.2%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	28,994	78.8%
Living in the Selection Area	41,757	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	12,763	30.6%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	28,994	69.4%

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap](#)

Figure 10. EDR 1-Northwest Labor and Commute Shed, 2018



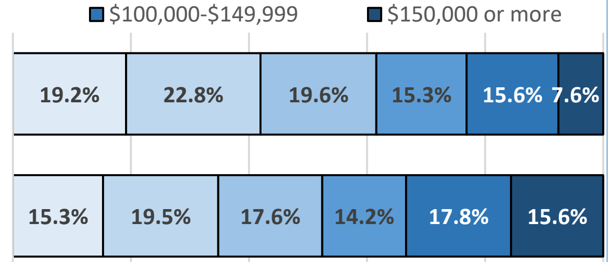
Polk County is the largest employment center in the region and the biggest draw for workers, followed by Roseau, Pennington, and Marshall County. Employers in the region draw workers from surrounding counties like Grand Forks (ND), Beltrami, and Lake of the Woods. Workers also travel to these same counties for work, primarily to the Fargo and Grand Forks metropolitan areas in North Dakota, as well as Mahnomen, Becker and Clearwater counties in Minnesota (Figure 10).

INCOMES, WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

Household incomes were much lower in EDR 1 than in the state overall. At $59,700 compared to $71,306, EDR 1 had the 8th highest median household income of the 13 economic development regions in the state. 42% of the households in the region had incomes below $50,000 in 2019, compared to just 34.8% statewide. Over one-third (34.9%) of households earned between $50,000 and $100,000 in the region, but only 23.2% of households earned over $100,000 per year, compared to over 33% of households statewide (Figure 11).

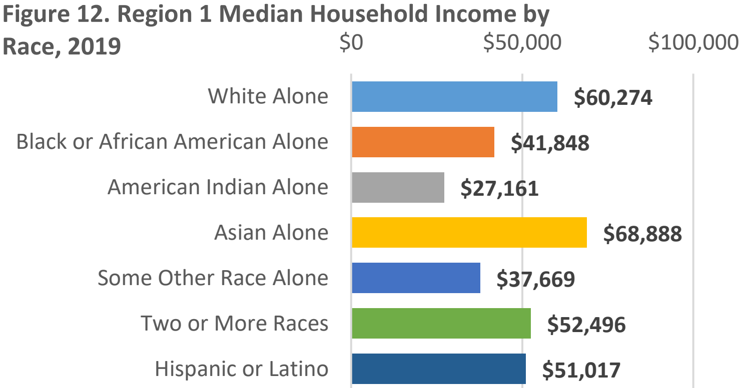
Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2019



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Incomes varied widely by race in EDR 1, with the highest incomes reported by Asian households and the lowest incomes reported for households of Some Other Race alone. However, sample sizes were small for several of the race groups other than white, leading to large margins of error and big swings compared to previous years. American Indian households and households of some other race had much lower median incomes than white households (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Region 1 Median Household Income by Race, 2019



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

COST OF LIVING

According to DEED's Cost of Living tool, the basic needs budget for an average Minnesota family (which consists of 2 adults and 1 child, with 1 full-time and 1 part-time worker) was $58,800 in 2020. The cost of living for a similar family in EDR 1-Northwest was $46,368 – which was the fifth lowest of the 13 planning regions in the state, and second lowest in the Northwest Planning Area. The highest monthly costs were for transportation, food, and housing; though the region's housing, child care, and taxes were significantly lower than the rest of the state. In order to meet the basic cost of living for the region, the workers in the family scenario described would need to earn $14.86 per hour working a combined 60 hours per week.

DEED's Cost of Living tool provides different estimates for household compositions including single people, partnered couples, and up to 4 children. For a single person living alone and working full-time, the estimated yearly cost in EDR 1 would be $28,452 which would require an hourly wage of $13.68 to meet the basic needs cost of living (see Table 8).

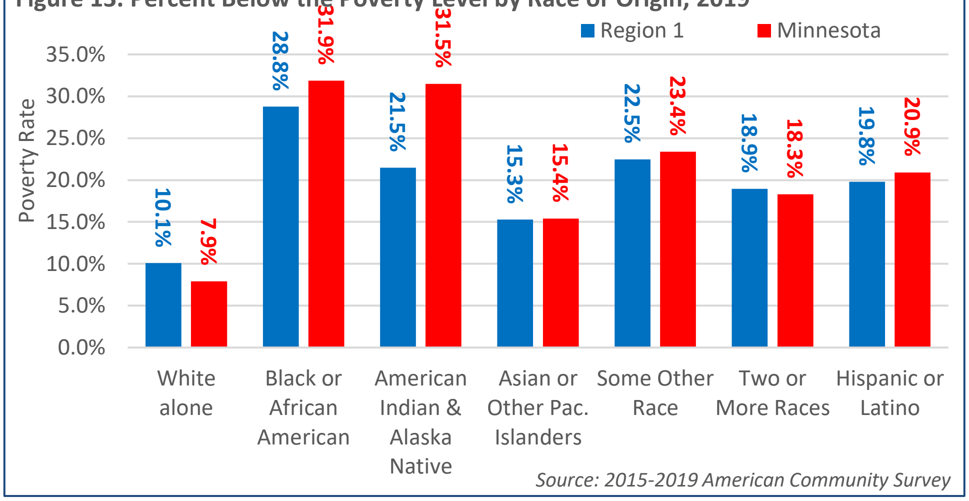
Table 8. Family Yearly Cost, Worker Hourly Wage, and Family Monthly Costs, 2020

Family Composition	Number of Workers	Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
				Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans-portation	Other	Taxes
EDR 1-Northwest										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	$28,452	$13.68	$0	$352	$163	$596	$684	$260	$316
Single, 1 child	1 FT	$40,080	$19.27	$416	$520	$385	$780	$688	$356	$195
2 parents, 1 child	**1 FT, 1 PT**	**$46,368**	**$14.86**	**$208**	**$804**	**$519**	**$780**	**$793**	**$434**	**$326**
2 parents, 2 children	2 FT	$63,108	$15.17	$536	$1048	$533	$1,049	$835	$574	$485
State of Minnesota										
Single, 0 children	1 FT	$32,964	$15.85	$0	$355	$153	$832	$704	$325	$378
2 parents, 1 child	**1 FT, 1 PT**	**$58,800**	**$18.85**	**$546**	**$810**	**$549**	**$1,069**	**$819**	**$515**	**$592**

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Overall, EDR 1's poverty rate was 10.7% , which was right in line with the statewide rate of 10.5%. Like incomes, poverty levels varied widely by race and origin. It was estimated that almost 29% of the region's Black or African American population was below the poverty level in 2017, compared to just 10.1% of the white population. Likewise, poverty levels hovered around 20% for American Indians, people of some other race or two or more races, and people of Hispanic or Latino origin. With the higher median incomes displayed above, only about 15% of the Asian and other Pacific Islander population in the region was below the poverty line. In almost all cases, the region's poverty rate was lower than the state's poverty rate, except for white residents (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Percent Below the Poverty Level by Race or Origin, 2019



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS

Table 9. Occupational Employment Statistics by Region, 1st Qtr. 2021	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment
EDR 1 - Northwest	**$19.87**	**35,010**
EDR 2 - Headwaters	$19.80	29,720
EDR 3 - Arrowhead	$20.49	132,720
EDR 4 - West Central	$19.61	78,570
EDR 5 - North Central	$18.19	64,670
EDR 6E - Southwest Central	$19.37	49,540
EDR 6W - Upper MN Valley	$19.11	15,520
EDR 7E - East Central	$21.84	48,790
EDR 7W - Central	$20.83	185,220
EDR 8 - Southwest	$18.79	51,340
EDR 9 - South Central	$19.76	99,840
EDR 10 - Southeast	$21.13	231,950
EDR 11 - 7-County Twin Cities	$24.93	1,697,060
State of Minnesota	**$23.00**	**2,708,760**
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics,2021		

The median hourly wage for all occupations in EDR 1-Northwest was $19.87 in the first quarter of 2021 (Table 9). As such, the region has the highest median wage level in the Northwest planning area, despite having the lowest cost of living. Still, the median wage in EDR 1 was $3.13 less than the statewide median, and $5.06 less than the median hourly wage in the Twin Cities metro area, which would amount to over $10,500 less per year for a full-time worker. Compared to surrounding areas, the median hourly wage in EDR 1 was similar to that of EDR 2-Headwaters ($19.80) and $1.68 more than in EDR 5-North Central ($18.19).

EDR 1-Northwest had nearly 10,000 employed transportation and material moving and production occupations as these industries had high location quotients indicating a stronger concentration in the region. Not surprisingly, the lowest-paying jobs are concentrated in food preparation, serving, sales, and personal care occupations, which tend to have lower educational and training requirements. For the most part, the pay gap between EDR 1 and the state is much lower in these jobs. Regional wages are also highly competitive in production, transportation and material moving, healthcare support, protective service and farming, fishing and forestry (Table 10).

Table 10. EDR 1-Northwest Occupational Employment Statistics, 1st Qtr. 2021

	EDR 1-Northwest				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment	*Share of Total Employment*	*Location Quotient*	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Employment	*Share of Total Employment*
Total, All Occupations	**$19.87**	**35,010**	***100.0%***	***1.0***	**$23.00**	**2,708,760**	***100.0%***
Transportation & Material Moving	$18.19	5,060	*14.5%*	*1.9*	$18.83	209,210	*7.7%*
Production	$21.30	4,830	*13.8%*	*1.8*	$19.82	202,240	*7.5%*
Office & Administrative Support	$20.02	4,230	*12.1%*	*1.0*	$20.93	338,050	*12.5%*
Sales & Related	$14.02	3,050	*8.7%*	*0.9*	$16.83	250,430	*9.2%*
Education, Training & Library	$19.68	2,700	*7.7%*	*1.3*	$24.64	159,060	*5.9%*
Food Preparation & Serving Related	$13.19	2,130	*6.1%*	*0.8*	$13.34	195,120	*7.2%*
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	$29.24	1,630	*4.7%*	*0.7*	$36.90	188,210	*6.9%*
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	$23.48	1,620	*4.6%*	*1.3*	$25.45	98,840	*3.6%*
Management	$45.00	1,500	*4.3%*	*0.7*	$54.22	164,530	*6.1%*
Healthcare Support	$15.49	1,480	*4.2%*	*0.7*	$15.52	157,140	*5.8%*
Business & Financial Operations	$28.04	1,350	*3.9%*	*0.6*	$35.24	179,670	*6.6%*
Construction & Extraction	$21.41	1,160	*3.3%*	*0.9*	$29.84	102,390	*3.8%*
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	$15.76	810	*2.3%*	*0.8*	$16.14	74,550	*2.8%*
Architecture & Engineering	$32.36	740	*2.1%*	*1.0*	$38.90	54,880	*2.0%*
Community & Social Service	$24.01	600	*1.7%*	*0.8*	$24.21	55,630	*2.1%*
Protective Service	$23.35	570	*1.6%*	*1.0*	$24.18	42,520	*1.6%*
Personal Care & Service	$14.01	420	*1.2%*	*0.6*	$14.57	51,660	*1.9%*
Computer & Mathematical	$33.85	320	*0.9%*	*0.3*	$44.89	98,240	*3.6%*
Life, Physical & Social Science	$25.33	270	*0.8%*	*0.8*	$35.48	26,120	*1.0%*
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	$16.97	270	*0.8%*	*0.6*	$25.72	36,260	*1.3%*
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	$19.33	170	*0.5%*	*3.1*	$18.14	4,230	*0.2%*
Legal	$29.37	100	*0.3%*	*0.4*	$41.02	19,760	*0.7%*

Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Qtr. 1 2021

In contrast, the highest paying jobs are found in management, architecture and engineering, healthcare practitioners, legal, life, physical and social science, and business and financial operations occupations. These occupations generally require higher levels of education and experience, including many that require bachelor's degrees or higher. However, the gaps in pay between the region and the state often exceed $5.00 per hour in these occupation categories.

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Employers in the 26-county Northwest Planning region reported 12,180 job vacancies in the second quarter of 2020, slightly less to the number of vacancies posted over the past second quarter surveys, which had a peak of 14,136 job vacancies in second quarter of 2018. Demand for workers was high across all industries, with the largest number of openings in retail trade (3,072 job vacancies), accommodation and food services (2,524 job vacancies), health care and social assistance (2,460 job vacancies), educational services (806 job vacancies), construction (767 job vacancies), and public administration (731 job vacancies).

With job vacancy increases, wages have risen with the median hourly wage offer from the current survey jumping to $14.98 per hour, which was the highest wage offer in the history of the job vacancy survey. Wage offers ranged from just over $11 per hour for personal care and food preparation and serving occupations to over $21 per hour for healthcare practitioners, management, and community and social service occupations.

The largest number of vacancies were in sales and related, food preparation and serving related, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, healthcare support and practitioner, and transportation and material moving occupations. Overall, 42% of the openings were part-time, 28% required post-secondary education, and 34% required 1 or more years of experience (Table 11). In sum, educational requirements in the region had been stable or declining over the past 5 years, while work experience requirements were relatively stable.

Table 11. Northwest Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2nd Qtr. 2020

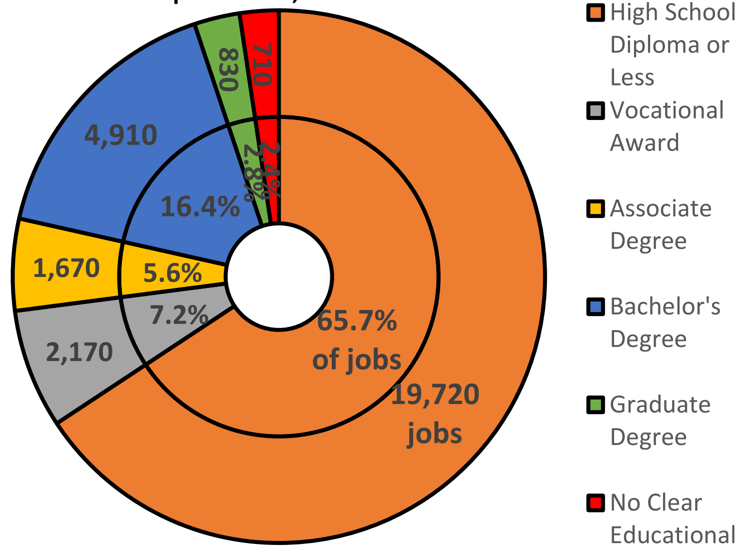
	Number of Total Vacancies	Percent Part-time	Percent Temporary or Seasonal	Requiring Post-Secondary Education	Requiring 1 or More Years of Experience	Requiring Certificate or License	Median Hourly Wage Offer
Total, All Occupations	**12,180**	**42%**	**25%**	**28%**	**34%**	**39%**	**$14.98**
Sales & Related	1,439	53%	16%	7%	27%	5%	$13.11
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	1,374	45%	40%	2%	9%	4%	$15.70
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,367	77%	16%	12%	13%	16%	$11.20
Healthcare Support	1,290	66%	3%	49%	22%	65%	$14.32
Transportation & Material Moving	1,158	44%	40%	7%	35%	48%	$13.03
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,015	29%	5%	78%	42%	94%	$21.42
Office & Administrative Support	785	22%	29%	9%	45%	14%	$14.04
Construction & Extraction	687	2%	59%	16%	36%	34%	$16.69
Education, Training & Library	551	48%	70%	86%	85%	77%	$17.07
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	398	12%	22%	10%	66%	56%	$18.19
Production	393	5%	6%	23%	34%	31%	$15.15
Personal Care & Service	284	83%	44%	6%	8%	19%	$12.55
Business & Financial Operations	280	3%	2%	79%	94%	73%	$21.11
Management	209	4%	11%	53%	74%	47%	$24.17
Community & Social Service	195	63%	10%	41%	39%	93%	$14.20
Architecture & Engineering	166	1%	14%	83%	70%	90%	$22.46
Computer & Mathematical	160	0%	2%	62%	61%	6%	$30.26
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	159	8%	52%	12%	11%	10%	$14.42
Protective Service	126	56%	42%	16%	28%	88%	$17.53
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	96	1%	6%	100%	99%	98%	$22.86

Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 4th Qtr. 2020

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Data from DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics program shows that around one-third of current jobs held in EDR 1 require post-secondary education to perform. The other two-thirds require no more than a high school diploma, and sometimes less. However, some amount of on-the-job training is often needed (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Northwest Minnesota Share of Jobs by Educational Requirements, 2020



Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics

Certain careers – such as dentists, lawyers, and teachers – require a college education, while other jobs – including cost estimators, sales representatives, and correctional officers – do not. College is an excellent way to move up career ladders and open windows of opportunity to fields that would otherwise be closed, such as nursing or engineering. Many of these occupations offer high wages and are in high demand in the marketplace. While education is typically a worthwhile investment, college can be expensive – with average annual expenses ranging between $14,500 and almost $50,000 per year in Minnesota. For those who go to college, choice of major matters – different programs lead to different jobs that earn different amounts of money.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Overall, the Northwest Planning Region is projected to grow 3.2% from 2018 to 2028, a gain of 8,311 new jobs. In addition, the region is also expected to need 123,196 replacement openings to fill jobs left vacant by retirements and other career changers. Production, personal care and service, construction and extraction, healthcare support, healthcare practitioners, and building, grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations are expected to see the most new growth. Arts, design, entertainment and media, sales and related, and office and administrative support occupations are expected to decline but every occupational group will show some future demand through replacement openings (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Northwest Minnesota Regional Employment Projections, 2018-2028

Source: DEED 2018-2028 Employment Outlook

OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

According to DEED's Occupations in Demand tool, there are nearly 450 occupations in demand (OID) in Northwest Minnesota, and about 250 occupations are showing relatively high demand. Most OID require a high school diploma or less, and less than one-third require a bachelor's degree or higher. While OID exist in every sector, the region's major industries are well represented as many of the jobs are concentrated in health care, education, transportation, retail sales and other related industries (Table 12).

Table 12. 2020 Occupations in Demand by Education Level, Northwest Minnesota

High School or Less	Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners ($29,059)	Nursing Assistants ($33,192)	Registered Nurses ($70,869)	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education ($55,653)
Personal Care Aides ($27,537)	Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses ($44,853)	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians ($35,815)	Secondary School Teachers ($57,557)
Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material ($33,677)	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics ($43,383)	Surgical Technologists ($50,177)	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term ($36,299)
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary ($31,147)	Computer User Support Specialists ($48,506)	Computer Network Support Specialists ($60,416)	Accountants and Auditors ($59,318)
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers ($45,816)	Dental Assistants ($44,363)	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Techs ($50,325)	Education Administration ($101,280)
Pharmacy Technicians ($35,018)	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers ($62,623)	Agricultural and Food Science Technicians ($38,083)	General Internal Medicine Physicians (N/A)
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan ($32,542)	Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics ($35,744)	Civil Engineering Techs ($63,159)	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Spec. ($53,033)
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids ($30,581)	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics ($59,788)	Forest and Conservation Techs ($49,367)	Nurse Practitioners ($117,222)
Miscellaneous Assemblers ($38,150)	Health Information Technologists, Medical Registrars ($56,465)	Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers ($65,205)	Career/Technical Education Teachers ($57,777)
Operating Engineers ($50,500)	Electricians ($57,871)	Industrial Engineering Techs ($46.625)	Rehabilitation Counselors ($34,434)

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

According to DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program, EDR 1-Northwest was home to 2,763 business establishments providing 34,702 covered jobs through 20120, with a total payroll that approached $1.65 billion. That was about 1.3% of total employment in the state. Average annual wages were $47,535 in the region, which was $16,628 lower than the statewide average, but was highest of the 4 EDRs in the planning area (Table 13).

Table 13. EDR 1-Northwest Industry Employment Statistics, 2020

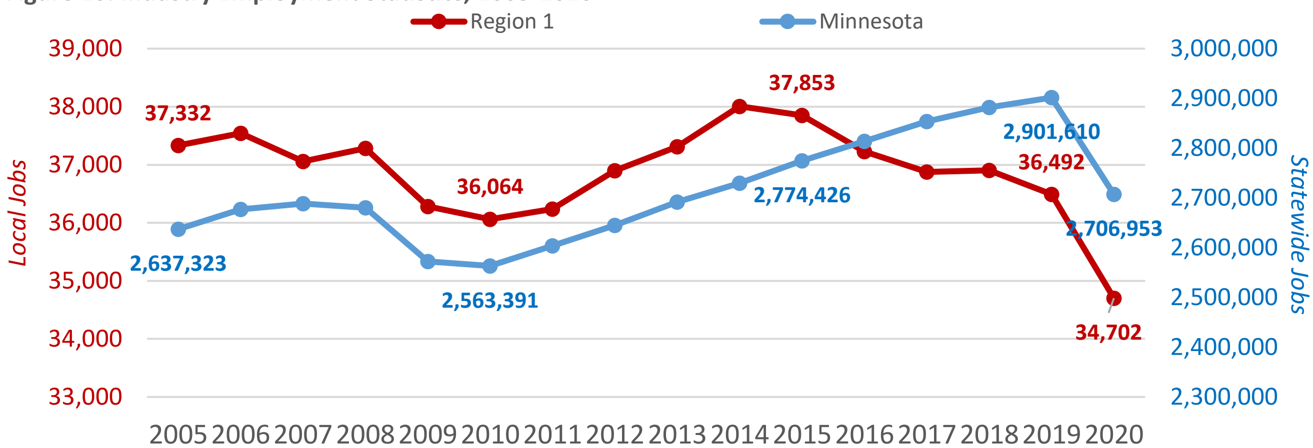
Geography	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll	Average Annual Wage	2015-2020 Change in Jobs	2015-2020 %Change	2019-2020 Change in Jobs	2019-2020 %Change
EDR 1 – Northwest	**2,763**	**34,702**	**$1,649,557,987**	**$47,535**	***-3,151***	***-8.3%***	***-1,790***	***-4.9%***
Kittson Co.	186	1,453	$58,392,584	$40,188	*-30*	*-2.0%*	*-54*	*-3.6%*
Marshall Co.	328	2,192	$108,381,135	$49,444	*-110*	*-4.8%*	*-44*	*-2.0%*
Norman Co.	246	1,530	$64,544,205	$42,186	*-123*	*-7.4%*	*-59*	*-3.7%*
Pennington Co.	415	9,577	$461,245,403	$48,162	*-963*	*-9.1%*	*-612*	*-6.0%*
Polk Co.	1,008	11,482	$524,084,807	$45,644	*-812*	*-6.6%*	*-616*	*-5.1%*
Red Lake Co.	127	1,002	$39,693,013	$39,614	*-29*	*-2.8%*	*-38*	*-3.7%*
Roseau Co.	453	7,464	$393,216,840	$52,682	*-1,085*	*-12.7%*	*-367*	*-4.7%*
State of Minnesota	**182,228**	**2,706,953**	**$173,687,525,221**	**$64,163**	***-67,473***	***-2.4%***	***-194,657***	***-6.7%***

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)

In terms of employment, Polk County is the largest county in EDR 1 with 11,482 jobs at 1,008 firms, followed by Pennington County with 9,577 jobs. Red Lake County has the smallest economy with 1,002 jobs, while Kittson and Norman County both had less than 2,000 jobs in 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, every county lost jobs over the past year and the region is down 3,151 jobs from 2015, a 8.3% decrease.

EDR 1-Northwest lost employment over the past decade overall, but experienced significant swings up and down in employment over that time (Figure 16). Both losses and gains, during and after the recession, occurred faster in EDR 1 than the state as a whole. Like the state, the region fully recovered all of the jobs lost during the recession by 2013, but regional declines following 2014 put it at odds with employment growth in the planning region and statewide. Between 2014 and 2018, the region lost 1,121 jobs, a decline of over 3%. Due to the pandemic, there was a loss of nearly 1,800 jobs or 8.3% decrease from 2019 to 2020.

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2020



Source: DEED QCEW program

With 6,710 jobs at 121 establishments, the Manufacturing industry employs by far the most people in EDR 1-Northwest. Even after losing 801 jobs the last five years, it still accounted for over 19% of total regional jobs in 2020. With 2,673 jobs, the region has an extremely high concentration of employment in transportation equipment manufacturing, and about 900 jobs in food manufacturing. Health Care and Social Assistance remained the second largest industry in terms of employment with 5,323 jobs but lost 131 jobs over the past year. Due to the region's older population, the largest sectors were hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities with just over 1,900 jobs each.

The next largest industry in EDR 1 is Wholesale Trade, which kept steady employment from 2015 to 2020 and now accounts for 4,820 jobs in the region at 137 establishments. Wholesale Trade accounts for 13.9% of total employment in the region, compared to just 4.6% of total employment in the state. In addition, average annual wages in Wholesale Trade ($59,269) were nearly $12,000 higher than the regional average ($47,535) – and nearly exceeded those in Manufacturing ($59,505).

Other important industries in the region include Retail Trade, Educational Services, Public Administration, Accommodation and Food Services, and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Services, which are all more highly concentrated in the region than the state. The next largest industries include Construction and Transportation and Warehousing which both have gained jobs over the last 5 years. However, due to the pandemic, only 3 of the 20 main industries in the region added jobs since 2015, with major losses occurring to Administrative Support and Waste Management Services, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, and Accommodation and Food Services (Table 14).

Table 14. EDR 1-Northwest Industry Employment Statistics, 2020								
	2020 Annual Data				*2015-2020*		*2019-2020*	
NAICS Industry Title	Number of Firms	Number of Jobs	Total Payroll ($1,000s)	Avg. Annual Wage	*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*	*Change in Jobs*	*Percent Change*
Total, All Industries	2,763	34,702	$1,649,558	$47,535	-3,151	-8.3%	-1,790	-4.9%
Manufacturing	121	6,710	$399,281	$59,505	-801	-10.7%	-499	-6.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	241	5,323	$244,846	$45,998	-135	-2.5%	-131	-2.4%
Wholesale Trade	137	4,820	$285,679	$59,269	-13	-0.3%	-12	-0.2%
Retail Trade	327	3,378	$90,770	$26,871	-312	-8.5%	-167	-4.7%
Educational Services	69	3,218	$151,391	$47,045	-108	-3.2%	-185	-5.4%
Public Administration	140	2,176	$113,140	$51,994	-25	-1.1%	-79	-3.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	185	1,748	$25,765	$14,740	-475	-21.4%	-344	-16.4%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	319	1,160	$51,965	$44,797	+55	+5.0%	-28	-2.4%
Construction	307	1,140	$67,079	$58,841	+6	+0.5%	+92	+8.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	194	1,096	$55,045	$50,223	-34	-3.0%	-41	-3.6%
Other Services	207	889	$17,395	$19,566	-178	-16.7%	-150	-14.4%
Finance & Insurance	145	871	$52,331	$60,082	-10	-1.1%	-7	-0.8%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	61	582	$13,871	$23,833	-347	-37.4%	-156	-21.1%
Professional & Technical Services	113	471	$26,529	$56,324	-27	-5.4%	8	+1.7%
Information	41	414	$20,612	$49,787	-97	-19.0%	-35	-7.8%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	78	336	$9,738	$28,984	-633	-65.3%	-66	-16.4%
Utilities	14	134	$11,756	$87,731	-5	-3.6%	+3	+2.3%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	48	100	$3,349	$33,490	-21	-17.4%	-3	-2.9%
Management of Companies	9	95	$6,762	$71,178	+11	+13.1%	+8	+9.2%
Mining	9	37	$2,256	$60,983	-11	-22.9%	-5	-12.6%
Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) program								

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

According to DEED's Quarterly Employment Demographics (QED) program, the workforce in the region was aging over the past 10 years. Well over one-quarter (27.2%) of workers in the region were 55 years or older, compared to 22.0% statewide and just 19.4% in the region one decade earlier. In contrast, the percentage of teenaged workers was falling, and while wages were going up for younger workers, the number of hours worked was going down (Table 15).

As noted above, wages were climbing across the board for all workers due to rising demand and a tight labor market. While wages were still lowest for the youngest and oldest workers who tend to fill lower-skilled, less-than-fulltime jobs in industries like retail trade and accommodation and food services, these two age groups enjoyed the fastest percentage increase in wages from 2009 to 2019. Wages were highest for workers between 45 and 64 years of age, and males worked more hours than females, though the gap was narrowing.

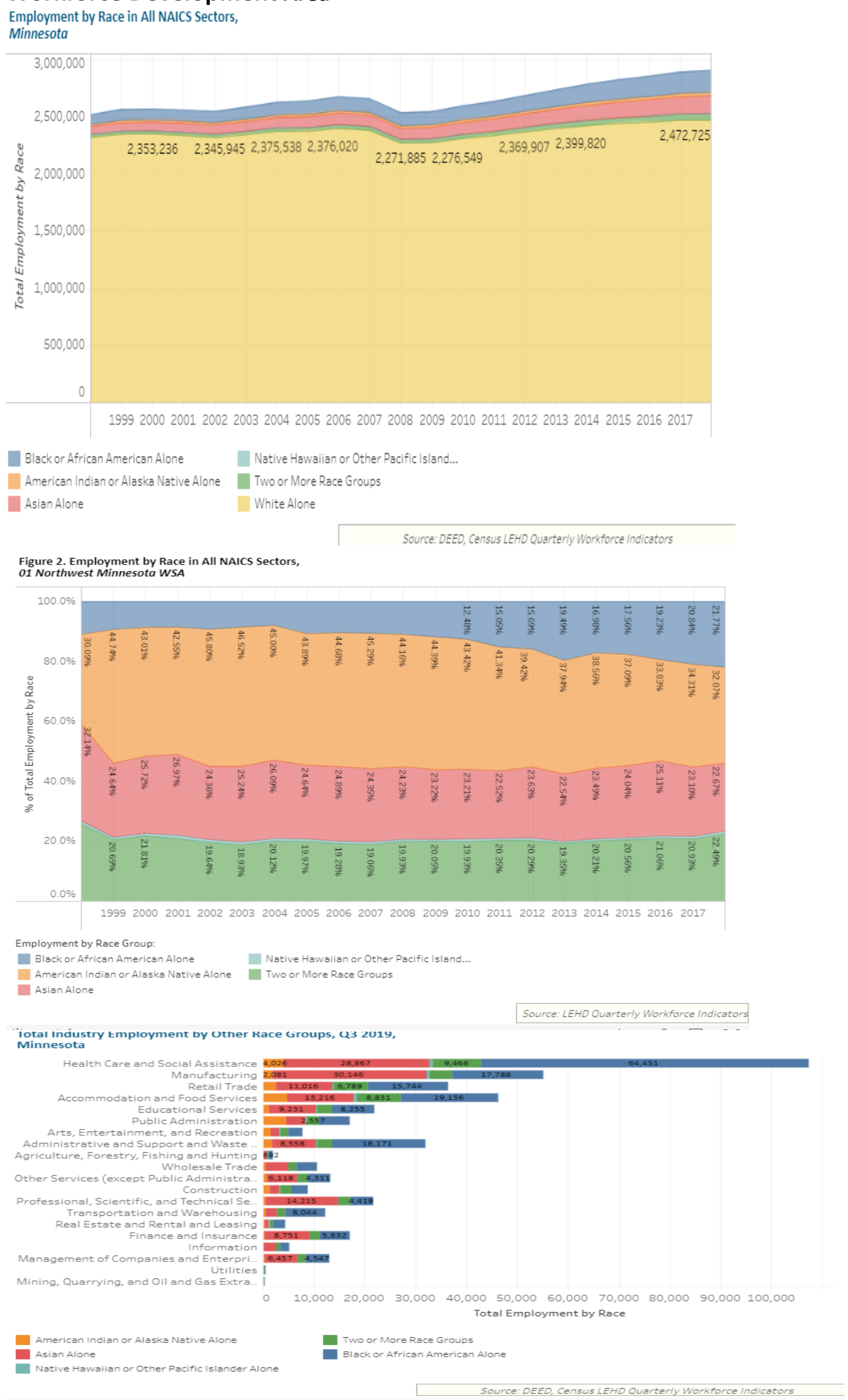
Table 15. Workforce Demographics by Age Group and Gender, Total of All Industries, 2009-2019								
Region 1	Percentage of Workers		*Percent of Workers, Minnesota*		Median Hourly Wage		Median Hours Worked (Per Qtr.)	
	2019	2009	*2019*	*2009*	2019	2009	2019	2009
Total, all ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	$19.15	$14.46	431	417
19 years & under	6.6%	7.9%	6.0%	6.5%	$10.50	$7.51	120	123
20 to 24 years	9.1%	9.4%	10.1%	11.1%	$15.06	$10.89	306	277
25 to 44 years	38.0%	37.8%	43.2%	42.7%	$20.41	$15.36	470	454
45 to 54 years	19.1%	24.5%	18.7%	23.0%	$22.09	$16.35	480	477
55 to 64 years	20.1%	15.7%	16.9%	13.5%	$21.59	$16.14	480	459
65 years & over	7.1%	4.7%	5.1%	3.3%	$17.21	$12.12	227	208
Male	48.9%	47.1%	49.1%	49.0%	$21.05	$16.15	480	466
Female	51.1%	52.9%	50.9%	51.0%	$17.98	$12.80	396	383
Source: DEED Quarterly Employment Demographics								

While people of color make up 6.7% of the overall population, they held 6.1% of total jobs in the Northwest Minnesota Workforce Development Area, according to data from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators program. Through the third quarter of 2019, that equaled 2,214 workers of color, compared to 33,928 White Alone workers. Workers of color held just 2.6% of total jobs in the WDA in 2000, indicating a significant increase in employment since 2000.

In sum, workers of color have filled an additional 1,025 jobs in the WDA since 2000, accounting for two-thirds of new jobs. With 710 jobs, American Indian or Alaska Natives were the largest group of color in the WDA's economy, after gaining 178 jobs since 2000. The next largest group was Asian, who held 502 jobs in 2019 after more than doubling since 2000. Two or More Races held 498 jobs in the area, increasing 102% from 2000. With 482 jobs in 2019, Black or African American experienced a gain of 373 jobs or tripled employment. Finally, Hispanic or Latino workers accounted for 1,359 jobs or 3.8% of the total workforce and increased 66% from 2000.

Most sectors in the Workforce Development Area are non-diverse, but there are a couple industries that rely more heavily on workers of color. For example, 41.6% of the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation workforce is people of color, consisting of 87.8% American Indian or Alaska Native Alone workers. Likewise, 11.6% of the Administration and Support and Waste Management and 10.3% of Accommodation and Food Services workforces were people of color. The largest number of workers of color (372) were employed in Health Care and Social Assistance, while Manufacturing had 366 workers of color (see Figure 17).

Figure 17. Employment by Race Statistics for Northwest Minnesota Workforce Development Area



2019 data is for Qs 1-3. Source: DEED, Census LEHD Quarterly Workforce Indicators https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/magda.olson/viz/QWI-Race_byWSA_2019/Story1

INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

As noted above, Region 1 is part of the 26-county Northwest Minnesota Planning Region, which is projected to grow 3.2% from 2018 to 2028, a gain of 8,311 new jobs. The largest and fastest growing industry is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance, which may account for one-half (49.5%) of total projected growth in the region by 2028. The region is also expected to see significant employment growth in Construction, Public Administration, Accommodation and Food Services and Educational Services. In contrast, Information is expected to decrease by 15% with the loss of nearly 400 jobs (Table 16).

Table 16. Northwest Industry Projections, 2018-2028

Industry	Estimated Employment 2018	Projected Employment 2028	*Percent Change 2018-2028*	*Numeric Change 2018-2028*
Total, All Industries	**263,134**	**271,445**	***+3.2%***	***+8,311***
Health Care & Social Assistance	38,050	42,165	*+10.8%*	*+4,115*
Manufacturing	29,207	29,064	*-0.5%*	*-143*
Retail Trade	28,148	28,190	*+0.1%*	*+42*
Public Administration	23,300	23,980	*+2.9%*	*+680*
Educational Services	23,141	23,679	*+2.3%*	*+538*
Accommodation & Food Services	20,661	21,248	*+2.8%*	*+587*
Wholesale Trade	12,153	12,545	*+3.2%*	*+392*
Construction	10,281	11,330	*+10.2%*	*+1,049*
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	10,196	10,174	*-0.2%*	*-22*
Transportation & Warehousing	6,934	7,284	*+5.0%*	*+350*
Finance & Insurance	6,003	6,287	*+4.7%*	*+284*
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	5,627	5,766	*+2.5%*	*+139*
Professional & Technical Services	4,771	5,123	*+7.4%*	*+352*
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	4,570	4,416	*-3.4%*	*-154*
Administrative & Waste Services	4,369	4,978	*+13.9%*	*+609*
Information	2,506	2,128	*-15.1%*	*-378*
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	1,473	1,502	*+2.0%*	*+29*
Utilities	1,185	1,155	*-2.5%*	*-30*
Management of Companies	847	1,020	*+20.4%*	*+173*
Mining	206	237	*+15.0%*	*+31*

Source: DEED 2018-2028 Employment Outlook

NONEMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

Region 1 was home to 5,982 self-employed businesses or "nonemployers" in 2018, which are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as "businesses without paid employees that are subject to federal income tax, originating from tax return information of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)." Like covered employment, Region 1 saw a decline in nonemployers over the past decade, responding to economic changes. In sum, the region lost 250 nonemployers from 2007 to 2018, a -4.0% decrease. These non-employers generated sales receipts of over $245million in 2017 (Table 17).

Table 17. Nonemployer Statistics, 2018

	2018		*2007-2018*	
	Number of Firms	Receipts ($1,000s)	*Change in Firms*	*Percent Change*
EDR 1 – Northwest	**5,982**	**$245,116**	***-250***	***-4.0%***
Kittson Co.	341	$14,118	*+13*	*+4.0%*
Marshall Co.	614	$23,252	*-81*	*-11.7%*
Norman Co.	477	$22,883	*-14*	*-2.9%*
Pennington Co.	879	$32,792	*-54*	*-5.8%*
Polk Co.	2,259	$97,615	*-65*	*-2.8%*
Red Lake Co.	246	$10,049	*-62*	*-20.1%*
Roseau Co.	1,166	$44,407	*+13*	*+1.1%*
Minnesota	**409,860**	**$19,370,490**	***+22,876***	***+5.9%***

Source: U.S. Census, Nonemployer Statistics program

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Like other parts of Greater Minnesota, agriculture is a key industry in Region 1, with 4,891 farms producing just under $1.3 billion in the market value of products sold in 2017 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That is 6th highest of the 13 regions in the state. Polk County is the most farm-reliant, ranking 7th overall in the state, while Marshall and Norman also ranks in the top 40 (Table 18).

Table 18. Census of Agriculture, 2017

	Number of Farms	Market Value of Products Sold	*State Rank*
EDR 1 – Northwest	**4,891**	**$1,299,434,000**	***6***
Kittson Co.	528	$128,347,000	*56*
Marshall Co.	1,086	$261,455,000	*31*
Norman Co.	505	$218,262,000	*39*
Pennington Co.	409	$66,456,000	*64*
Polk Co.	1,258	$429,771,000	*7*
Red Lake Co.	263	$65,599,000	*65*
Roseau Co.	842	$129,544,000	*55*
Minnesota	**68,822**	**$18,395,390,000**	

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture

Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting Cameron Macht at (320) 441-6596 or at cameron.macht@state.mn.us.